



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

Contact: Kevin Kelly

Phone: (573) 751-9300

Governor Office Building, Suite 900

FY-04-116

MEDIA REMINDER

NEVADA LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING IN AQUILA NATURAL GAS RATE CASE

Jefferson City (January 12, 2004)---The Missouri Public Service Commission will hold a local public hearing in **Nevada, Missouri on January 15, 2004**, to receive customer comment on a natural gas rate case filed by Aquila, Incorporated d/b/a Aquila Networks-MPS and Aquila Networks-L&P (Aquila). The local public hearing schedule appears below:

Nevada
January 15, 2004
6:00 pm*
Council Chambers
Public Safety Building
120 S. Ash Street

NOTE: *The PSC Staff will conduct a general information session starting at this time to answer any questions customers may have. The information session will be followed by the local public hearing.

Local public hearings give customers of the Company an opportunity to comment on the rate proposal currently before the Public Service Commission. In addition, customers can bring any service related problems to the attention of the Commission.

Aquila is seeking to increase annual natural gas revenues by approximately \$5.6 million in its Aquila Networks-MPS system and by approximately \$810,000 in its Aquila Networks-L&P system. Under the proposal, Aquila states a typical Aquila Networks-MPS residential customer using 802 Ccf (a Ccf equals 100 cubic feet) of natural gas a year would have an increase of \$9.03 a month or \$108.36 a year. Under the proposal, a typical Aquila Networks-L&P residential customer using 863 Ccf of natural gas a year would have an increase of \$8.33 a month or \$99.96 a year.

This rate case reflects what are called the non-gas costs of providing service to customers. Non-gas costs are generally operating and maintenance expenses and a return on investment in plant (such as natural gas mains and service lines that carry natural gas to the customer's home or business). The Missouri Public Service Commission does not regulate gas costs or rates that are charged to Aquila for natural gas by wholesale suppliers. The Commission does perform a regulatory review to ensure that regulated natural gas companies such as Aquila make prudent decisions in securing natural gas supplies for their customers.

Aquila Networks-L&P serves approximately 6,000 natural gas customers in the former St. Joseph Light & Power service area. Aquila Networks-MPS serves approximately 46,000 natural gas customers in the former service area of Missouri Public Service.